

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 03065 221521Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 DHA-02 /060 W
-----230351Z 069512 /15

R 211645Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9904
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO
USEC BRUESSELS

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SP
SUBJECT: ADDRESS BY MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR MARTIN VILLA

1. MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR MARTIN VILLA SPOKE IN BARCELONA
APRIL 19 AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE NEW CIVIL GOVERNOR
OF BARCELONA, MANUEL ORTIZ SANCHEZ. HIS ADDRESS, WHICH
AMOUNTED TO A POLITICAL PRIMER FOR A MODERN CIVIL GOVERNOR
HAS RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION.

2. PRESS REACTION HAS BEEN RELATIVELY OBJECTIVE AND FAVOR
ABLE, ALTHOUGH DIFFERENT NEWSPAPERS HAVE WRITTEN THEIR
HEADLINES TO SUIT THEIR EDITORIAL INTERESTS. INDEPENDENT
MODERATE BARCELONA DAILY "VANGUARDIA" RAN THE HEADLINE
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PAGE 02 MADRID 03065 221521Z

"IT CONCERNS THE GOVERNMENT ALONE, CONSTITUTIONALLY TO
DETERMINE NATIONAL POLICY, OF THE MADRID DAILIES,
CATHOLIC MODERATE "YA" HEADLINES "ORDER AND AUTHORITY
UNDER THE LAW", WHILE LIBERAL LEFT "EL PAIS" EMPHASIZED
"MARTIN VILLA ASKS PROTECTION FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE
PERSON."

3. IN HIS SPEECH MARTIN VILLA ATTRIBUTED TWO PRINCIPAL DUTIES TO A CIVIL GOVERNOR IN THE NEW POLITICAL ERA. "TO BE GUARANTORS OF LAWFUL OPTIONS AND POLITICAL CHOICES AND TO BE ZEALOUS GUARDIANS OVER THE RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES OF THE CITIZENS AND OF THEIR EXERCISE AND ACCOMPLISHMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW".

4. WITH RESPECT TO THE FORMER, HE NOTED THAT CIVIL GOVERNORS, AS SERVANT OF THE LAW, SHOULD MAINTAIN "OBJECTIVITY". WHILE EXECUTING FAITHFULLY THE ORDERS OF THE GOVERNMENT, THE ONLY AUTHORIZED MAKER OF NATIONAL POLICY.

5. WITH RESPECT TO CIVIL RIGHTS, HE STATE THAT THE PRESTIGE OF THE GOVERNOR'S AUTHORITY CAN BE MAINTAINED ONLY IF ITS POWER IS EXERCISED "IN THE SERVICE OF THE LAW. REFERRING TO PUBLIC ORDER FORCES, THEY "OUGHT NOT TO BE SERVANTS OF GROUPS OR PARTIES". AMONG THE CIVIL RIGHTS HE SINGLED OUT AS PROTECTED BY LAW WERE POLITICAL ASSOCIATION, THE RIGHT TO MEET AND TO DEMONSTRATE FREEDOM TO JOIN A TRADE UNION, AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION.

6. A STRONG THEME, RUNNING THROUGHOUT HIS ADDRESS, WAS RESPECT FOR THE LAW AND PUBLIC ORDER. HE NOTED THAT CIVIL RIGHTS, WHILE PROTECTED BY LAW, COULD BE "JUSTLY RESTRAINED" IF EXERCISED OUTSIDE THE LAW OR AS A PRETEXT FOR ACTION AGAINST THE STATE MONARCHY OR ARMED FORCES. HE POINTEDLY DENOUNCED THE "FALSE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MADRID 03065 221521Z

BELIEF THAT DEMOCRACY CONSISTS IN ACTING OUTSIDE THE RULES. THE GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO CREATE A PLURALISTIC, ORDERLY AND PEACEFUL SOCIETY".

7. COMMENT: COLOUMNIST LUIS APOSTUA OBSERVED VERY APPROPRIATELY IN "YA" THAT A CIVIL GOVERNOR AS DESCRIBED BY MARTIN VILLA IS VERY DIFFERENT FROM THE DAYS WHEN EACH WAS "A LITTLE CAUFILLO". WHILE NOTING THAT SOME GOVERNORS CONTINUE TO EMPLOY THEIR POWERS IN A POLITICALLY DISCRIMINATORY WAY, AND THAT FORCING THEM TO STOP BEING RIGHTISTS AT HEART IS UTOPIAN, HE CALLED IT A GOOD THING THAT THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR HAD READ "THE NEW TABLETS OF THE LAW", WE AGREE. THE EMBASSY WOULD ALSO NOTE THAT, WITH THE DISMANTLEMENT OF THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT, (SEE MADRID2168,2515) GOVERNORS ARE NO LONGER SIMULTANEOUSLY SWORN IN AS PROVINCIAL HEADS OF THE "MOVIMIENTO". STABLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, SPEECHES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MADRID03065
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770141-0892
Format: TEL
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770434/aaaabcwr.tel
Line Count: 113
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bdefb0a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2739301
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ADDRESS BY MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR MARTIN VILLA
TAGS: PINT, SP, (VILLA, MARTIN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bdefb0a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009